

# diaLOG Y2K.2

The Student Community Newspaper of George Brown College, Toronto

## INSIDE

**SURVIVAL GUIDE:** Dialog's talented writers and illustrators have been busy this summer compiling a compendium of data to make life easier for new and returning students. This handy guide will help you with handy tips, where-to information and even how to get straight A's!

## NEWS

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## SURVIVAL GUIDE



Ontario's Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism Al Palladini (left) and George Brown President Frank Sorochinsky make an electrical connection at the launch, on June 25, of George Brown's new Centre for Advanced Microelectronics. This unique facility in Ontario will be located at Casa Loma campus, and will open its doors to students this September. There are still some spaces available. For more information, call the registrar at 415-2092.



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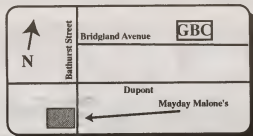
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The student community newspaper of George Brown College

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Back to School  
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and everything else you wanted to know about

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# Student Association

- OF GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE -

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# diaLOG

**t**he new school year will begin in September to a mixture of groans that the summer has vaporized away so quickly, but with also an eagerness to learn many fascinating, new things. I'm sure many students coming to George Brown College for the first time wonder just what George Brown is all about, or for that matter, what college is all about.

I started an 8-month course at George Brown College in January. I'd never been to a community college before and I wondered what it would be like. I went to the University of Toronto cons ago and I thought it might be similar. I taught English in Japan and Toronto, and I thought maybe teaching styles might be similar. But, I came to find out that in some ways, it's similar, but in others, it's completely different! For one thing, the first thing that struck me on the first day was that the teacher was called "John"! Ye gods! Not "Professor Field" or "Mr. Field" or "Field Sensei" ("Field Teacher" as they would say in Japan, although I didn't expect the teacher to have a Japanese title!) but "John", or even "Johnny"! At university, we always respectfully called our professors, logically, "Professor".

Now that I'm almost finishing up my course, I can see that what I at first thought was disrespected is actually not disrespected at all. At college, there seems to be a friendlier, more relaxed atmosphere, where teachers and students can be considered equals. In university and Japan and even a tiny bit in high school, teachers were almost like gods to be respected. But, I'm

glad to say that in college, there is a warmer feeling. You can feel free to talk to your teachers and respect them, and get respect back for your own achievements and ideas. It's a nice way to learn.

## Terrific teachers

Another thing that I found at George Brown is that teachers here are all so different in teaching styles and in personalities. My previous teachers seemed to be so similar, as if they would have belonged together at a family reunion, except maybe for one or two who might have knocked over the punch bowl and used the paper doilies as cute little napkins. But, here, some teachers have been teaching for decades. Others have been mostly working in the field. Others are part-time teachers. They all seem to have different backgrounds. This makes it interesting because we learn a lot from the teachers about their industry and their various experiences.

In my course, electronic desktop publishing, we had a new teacher almost every month. While sometimes it was difficult at first to get to know a new teacher's marking style or teaching style each month, it made me understand a wider range of things. And one advantage, if you didn't like one particular teacher's style, you could look forward to the next teacher's bright, smiling face! Of course, if he or she would show up in the course somewhere sometime!

## Teaching styles

Teachers also vary in teaching styles.

Some prefer to give hand-outs of the assignments and then answer questions the student may have. They rarely give classroom lectures. Others give lectures frequently and answer questions. I personally prefer the latter. The reason I came to college instead of buying books on software and teaching myself was so that I could receive the teachers' experience and advice. If I don't ask any questions in some teachers' classes, I never have to have contact with the teacher at all. These teachers are very helpful once they're at your desk, but they seem a bit like travelling help desks to me.

Both kinds of teachers are good. It depends on how you like to learn. I appreciate the teachers who give lectures. They present their topics very clearly and very knowledgeably, and skillfully show how to use the software by demonstrating the steps.

The teachers here also vary in personality. Most are very friendly and helpful and answer every question you have. They are keen to help you understand. A few recommend that you think for yourself and not ask very many questions as in the real world, you can't ask your boss questions. These teachers prefer a more self-reliant approach. Sometimes, they come across as a bit curt, but in their hearts, they mean well. Almost all of the teachers are nice. You'll find that several have a great sense of humour and uplifting enthusiasm and they inspire the class to work harder.

At George Brown, there are a great variety of teachers, and you will likely appreciate almost all of your teachers and learn

a lot in the process!

## Spectacular Student Services

I've enjoyed relaxing in the student lounge, shooting hoops in the gym, working out in the weight room and playing badminton with the badminton club. I've also had fun meeting a lot of great students and teachers.

I'd like to make one important point. You should be aware that you pre-pay for certain services to the Student Association. Some of my classmates and I weren't aware of this and we didn't take advantage of all of these services. This year, all students will be mailed "The Source", which is a wonderfully concise and informative guide. Don't just look at it and think "I'll read it later."

You've pre-paid \$285. You should know that you've paid for a health plan that will give you discounts on dental and optical services, as well as medication. Go to the Student Association office and they'll give you the flyers with helpful information. Your pre-payment also gives you complete access to the gym, a weight room, student lounges and pubs, a food bank, the Women's Centre and various athletic and social clubs. As well, you can get an International Student ID card, which gives you travel discounts. It is important that you use these services because you've paid for them, and to not use them would be quite a waste of your money. Therefore, read "The Source" carefully, and you'll be able to get the most out of your college experience. Have fun and enjoy the time you're here!

## the view from here

by Allan Stokell

**I**t seems hard to believe that it has been three years since I first stepped foot in the halls of George Brown College. A lot has happened in that time. I've completed one program, am currently enrolled in another, have edited the Dialog our school paper and have just begun my new career as Manager of Student Publications.

I first came to George Brown College as a middle-aged, unemployed photographer, hoping to retrain in the new technology. When I finally leave, and I don't expect it to be any time soon, I will be a completely different person.

To begin with, I will no longer fear change. Something you learn quickly here is that the only constant is change. Working with new technology means that you are always traveling at the speed of light and new methods replace old with lightning speed. Three years ago, I was taking photographs using film, then processing the films and making prints using photographic paper and chemicals. Today, I use a digital camera, make changes such as cropping or colour correction on my computer and send the images for printing to a high-quality computer printer. Retouching that once took days and resulted in loss of image quality now only takes minutes and enhances image sharpness.

Three years ago, I was sending out dozens of resumes and couldn't get an interview with anyone. I didn't have the skills that technology needs. Today, I have my new skills and I have networked to the point that I know where the good jobs are and who fills them.

If I might give the new students who are reading this column a bit of friendly advice it would be this: The people at George Brown College will give you an opportunity to learn skills, ideas, practise concepts and really make a difference. All you have to do in return is show up for classes, hand in your assignments on time and 'be there'. It is not difficult to do but some new students seem to have a hard time understanding how the system works.

If you happen to be a mature student like me, I invite you to attend a presentation I am facilitating for mature students at the Orientation event, Bright Lights Big City, on August 14 and 15. Titled



for information on Bright Lights, Big City elsewhere in this paper.

We are all big boys and girls at GBC so Mommy doesn't pick up your clothes or make sure you go to class. If you don't go to class, you will miss something. Something like a date an assignment is due, or what will be on the test. If you can't take the responsibility to get up in the morning and arrive promptly to class you may not succeed. When you go out looking for a job, you'll find that

employers are not your daddy. They expect you to show up on time and get your assignments done. If you don't they will fire you.

You are here at GBC to learn something. During class times, keep that as your primary concern. You can socialize with your new friends later. I like to party as much as the next guy. As a matter of fact, we have in Dialog are sponsoring both a pub crawl and a beer-tasting contest this semester. Getting involved with friends at one of the pubs is a great way to meet and greet. The Zone pubs are the on-campus pubs owned and operated by students so they are a great place to be.

Perhaps the last bit of academic advice is the most important. Get a copy of "The Source", your student handbook. Read it. You will have a much better understanding of what our college and Student Association is all about. You will learn how to have your complaints about the college resolved for instance, or how to claim exemptions. The Source is free and is being mailed out to new and returning students.

If you are reading this, then we can expect to see you here at the college no later than September. I really recommend that you come and visit us at the Dialog Collective. We always need volunteers and giving your time is the best way to meet people, get involved and work towards getting a part-time job.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION: GET READY FOR SEPTEMBER NOW!

by Shaheen Barker

New and returning students, your attention please! There are some very important things you should know before starting your new school year in September! I was recently speaking with Liz Antunes, the Vice President of St. James. She gave a lot of good suggestions that you might want to consider before September.

## Contact your Student Association

Your Student Association will be glad to answer all of your questions and comments. You can reach them at St. James at 415-2455, at Casa Loma at 415-4730, at Hospitality at 415-5074, and at Nightingale at 415-2761. You can also check out their web site at [www.gbrown.on.ca/saffairs/index.html](http://www.gbrown.on.ca/saffairs/index.html), and after August 15, at [www.gbrown.on.ca/SA.html](http://www.gbrown.on.ca/SA.html).

## The Source

The Source, George Brown College's student handbook has reams of good and useful information about George Brown. You can't put it down!

## Registration

Your registration forms and payments (either a full-tuition fee or a deferral fee) should have been in by July 16. If you haven't yet registered, then there is a \$125 late fee, and you may lose your spot. If you're applying for OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Plan), you should have your application in by, at the latest, mid-August. There's a \$145 deferral fee for OSAP. The earlier you get your application in, the sooner you'll get your OSAP. Conversely, the later you get it in, the later you'll get your OSAP. If you wait until September, you'll get your OSAP in October. You can pick up your OSAP forms at your high school if you're attending high school. You can also register on-line at [www.osap.gov.on.ca](http://www.osap.gov.on.ca) or call 1-800-343-7260. If you register on-line, you save \$10 and your form will be processed more quickly. Until August 27, the Open Access Computer Lab and the Financial Assistance office at St. James will be set up with special dedicated terminals to access the OSAP application form. Trained students will be there to help you. It's open Monday to Friday. Call for more details.

## Orientation

You should find out when your departmental orientation is. You can find more information at the Student Association web site, [www.gbrown.on.ca](http://www.gbrown.on.ca). Click on Programs and Courses, and then click on Academic Calendar of Events (August), and you'll see Orientation listed, or call 415-2000. There are "Bright Lights, Big City" orientation workshops happening at Casa Loma on August 14 and St. James on August 15. There's a fee to attend. Workshops presented include time-management, employment help, tours and so on. You can come down to George Brown, check out what your campus looks like, and find out where the offices and resources are. You should call the Student Association and RSVP. There is also a street party, called Rock the Block, happening on Friday, September 10 from 10 a.m. There will be live entertainment, interactive games, a barbecue and a lot more. You'll meet lots of students and have a good time! Circle your calendar for the 10th!

## Housing

If you're planning on moving down here, you should do it soon! George Brown has

a housing department on the fifth floor of St. James Campus. It's \$5 for a 16-week membership. If you sign up, you also get access to the University of Toronto's listings. You can also find information if you're looking for a roommate. You should start doing that now. If you're looking for a bachelor apartment, it costs around \$350 and up, depending on the area and if you have a roommate. If you're looking for a co-op, you have to get on the list now. It's hard to get into. At the co-op, you pay rent based on your income. For more housing information, call the Student Life Office at 415-2101.

## Transportation

Find out soon about how you'll get to George Brown. You can get a TTC Metropass, but you don't get any special

health plan, you should apply for your refund by September 30. Family applications are also due by that date. If you're not getting a refund, you can start using your health plan immediately, but you must pay upfront, and you'll be paid back later. You should pay until mid-October, when the Student Association gets confirmation of the paid fees. You can then go to the Student Association office with your photo I.D. and you'll receive a health card to show at your dentist's and pharmacy (provided you've paid your student fees in full). Drop by the Student Association office for more details.

## Photo I.D.

You should get your student photo I.D. by the first week of school. This also serves as your library card. You can get it at design-

## Keep Copies of your Documents

It's very, very important that you keep copies of your registration and of your receipt. If anything goes wrong, you will have documentation to back you up. If you don't have your documents, you may lose valuable class time while the information gets processed. Also, get a timetable. Come as early in the morning as possible to your faculty office's registrar, and pick up a timetable copy.

## Electives

If you look in your calendar, and see that you have an elective, you have to have it looked after by August 23. You need to call the registration office to register. If you leave it, you'll be stuck with what's left over and you won't get the class of your choice.

## Drop Sheets, Withdrawals, Adding Courses and Exemptions

Drop sheets, withdrawals, adding courses, and exemptions must be done within the first two weeks of September without academic penalty minus the administrative fee. Make sure you get the proper paperwork in case something goes wrong.

## Exemptions

You should have your high school, college or university transcripts available. Make sure you have them ready because you may take some time to get them. If you want to know if your exemption attempts are acceptable, call your department chair. He or she is the one who makes the decisions. If the chair doesn't think your transcripts qualify for an exemption, then you won't be exempted. If you already took a particular course at George Brown and want to be removed from that class, it's called a "drop". If you took the course at a school outside of George Brown, it is an "exemption" and there is a \$20 fee. You must pay the fee to graduate, so it's wise to pay beforehand. Until you get the paperwork, you're not exempted. Stay in class until you get the paperwork back. If you don't attend class, assuming you're exempt, you may find out a few weeks down the road that you're not exempt. Then, you have to catch up on classes and materials and you may have exams coming up that you know nothing about.

## Make Sure Your Name is on the Class List

By the end of the third class, make sure your name is on the list. If your name's not on the third draft of the class list, you might run into some troubles.

## Prior Learning Assessments

These assessments happen in March. It costs \$75 per assessment. If you want to get an assessment, you should start looking into it in September, because it takes a while.

## Going to University after This Year

If you're planning to go to university after this year, you should look into it. You have to apply by January.

## International Centre

If you're an international student, contact The International Centre. This centre is responsible for special programs for teachers, administrators and students from outside Canada. For more information, call 415-2115.

Check The Source, your coolest student handbook!



discount. You can get a monthly GTA pass. If you take GO and the subway, there's also a pass. If you're driving downtown, you should find out about monthly parking passes and compare prices.

## Textbooks

Come early to the bookstore for your textbooks because the bookstore can run out of books very quickly. But don't come too early because if the teacher decides on the first day of class to change the textbook, you only have two weeks to return the book. Don't come earlier than a week in advance.

## Athletics

Think about signing up for athletics. You've pre-paid for athletics in your student fee. To use the gym and weight room, you must sign up for a brief interview. You can sign up in the weight room. Sports start in the second week. Basketball and badminton start quite quickly, as do the intramurals. Intramurals include badminton, basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer and ball hockey. Varsity teams include soccer, basketball, volleyball, badminton, alpine skiing, cross country and baseball. There are also recreational programs including tennis lessons, weight training, fitness and aerobics. You can come up to the Athletics Department on the fifth floor at St. James or the gym to pick up a schedule. At Casa Loma, the Athletics Department is in the main building. Check "The Source", your student handbook, for more information.

## Health Plan

You should be looking into your pre-paid (\$170) health plan. Your health plan includes discounts on dental and optical needs and medication. If you have another

nated locations in the first few weeks of school and at any OACLC (Open Access Computer Learning Centre) after that.

## Jobs

You should start thinking about jobs. Get Back Jack's, the school's two retail outlets, the Student Association, and the counselling office are hiring. You can also check out Campus Worklink, the electronic employment listings of full-time, part-time, temporary, summer and contract positions. You can access Worklink in the on-line access labs at all three campuses. An on-line resume package is also available. You can pick up your password at the Counselling Office.

## Volunteering

Consider volunteering at the Student Association. Perhaps you'd like to join the student representative council. Volunteers are also welcomed at the Women's Centre, the Food Bank, and at the college newspaper, the Dialog. It gives you valuable experience and you can meet a lot of new people!

## Career Counselling

If you have some questions about your program choice, contact the Career Centre on the fifth floor of St. James. You can reach them at 415-2107 (St. James), 415-4585 (Casa Loma) or 415-2354 (Nightingale). If you're not sure about your program choice, you can transfer. But transfer and register early because classes fill up fast and you might not be able to get into the program of your choice. There's also a tutoring program if you'd like tutoring, or you could work part-time as a tutor. Workshops on study skills, exam preparation and so on are also offered. Personal counselling is also available.



# College Life

by Oleg Kremiansky

An unofficial comparative analysis of life at George Brown College and the University of Kiev, Ukraine

hi, everybody! This spring I'm graduating from the GBC's International Trade Program, whether I want to or not. My marks are supposed to be all right (touch wood). My chances of finding or carving a job niche for myself here are getting better... I wish I could say significantly better. No, I wouldn't say that. Yet, my general impression from my experiences at George Brown is fairly good. And I have something worthwhile to compare it with.

Some years ago, I was already mentally dressed in a student uniform. I attended the University of Kiev, which is in the Ukraine. As Ukrainian students, we were born and raised in the Soviet Union and we were pretty much the same as the George Brown College Canadian students that I meet here. We had a very similar atmosphere, characterized by the same "who-cares" approach, and the inevitable kisses and hugs in the patio during the breaks.

Some of us even had the same "wild" haircuts, the casual style of students from the West and — Oh, my God! — the different behavioral patterns. We happened to be everything but a faceless mass, regardless of what we were supposed to be according to the Marxist-Leninists' theory of social engineering.

At the same time, our cafeteria had terrible food and service. We could only dream about eating pizzas and Big Macs. We had only the simplest sandwiches to gulp down and the simplest juices to polish off. As a treat, we enjoyed rather limited amounts of watery soups and "borscht" (beet soup) that went by the name of this extremely tasty meal, but did not live up to it in quality. We hardly ever had a Coke. Sometimes we had Pepsi. And always compotes and glasses of sour cream which was not that bad after all.

All the same, we often complained to each other about these problems. But we rarely complained to the Dean or whoever

er was in charge. What would be the point? We were pretty sure it wouldn't help. Indeed, our complaining hardly accomplished anything.

As well, our libraries were far away from being modern and equipped with computers. The books in the library always frustrated our search for The Real Knowledge which was — we had honestly figured this out — collected and freely distributed in The Mysterious West, somewhere behind The Iron Curtain. In Canada, for example. By the way, one of my classmates somehow reached Canada and was a student here for a while. Maybe for a year or less. The guy came back as a different version of himself. He kept speaking only in Ukrainian with Russian-speaking professors and a number of times, he walked out of the classroom in a very demonstrative way when these professors dared to start their lectures in Russian. He became totally incorrigible. Did his experiences in Canada have something to do with that? I have no idea. Nevertheless, we can understand the driving forces behind his actions.

We were heavily politicized. At that time, the Ukraine officially proclaimed independence from the Soviet Union and all the major squares were transformed into huge stages for fierce disputes

between groups of conscientious nationalists and stubborn communists. (Others were so confused that afterwards, they lost any interest they had in politics). Sometimes we skipped classes to participate in our local

square's battle with opponents. How exciting it was! You sort of inhale fresh air from sweet Hide Park's democracy. I liked to feel free to speak my mind — whatever it was that I wanted to say. It's really something. However, I got fed up with that pretty fast and gradually quit the large stage of the street orator forever.

Unlike some other people, I evaluate my months at GBC not only in terms of how much time is wasted, how much money is spent and how many courses or topics might be skipped due to their apparent uselessness.

I would prefer seeing my GBC's experi-

ence this way: how much knowledge about people over here did I gain? Did we understand each other? If not, why not? That does make sense to me too. In that sense I consider my studying process as a tremendous success. Seriously. At least I've gotten some understanding of what it's like to be a Canadian college student. That's why it cannot be a waste of time, money, or whatever it takes, including TTC tickets.

Frankly, at the beginning of this whole process I thought — I'm not going to make it at all. Why have I not quit then? The answer is self-esteem. The money you paid you can get back. To recover a lost or blurred self-esteem is much tougher, as far I'm concerned. "You can handle all this stuff," I lectured to myself. "You have to. Otherwise, your goose is cooked."

So I registered at the City College — my first Canadian educational institution — with a casual self-confidence. Rather artificial, I have to admit. Deep, deeper inside me, I shouldered some unpleasant thoughts and

disturbing fears.

Being a student at the City College in your first year in this country is a sign of real maturity. It is either a personal maturity or the maturity of a person with an immigrant's mentality burden (there is such a thing — believe it or not).

Having acknowledged this, I pretended that I didn't care. However, I really do.

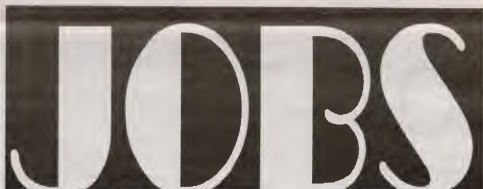
For instance, I was afraid (and still am in a way) to show my — as I supposed —

poor ability to communicate in conversational English. What if I would not be able to keep up a decent class discussion or merely keep up with small talk about the Leafs, beer, or home work?

Would I be able

to make some meaningful suggestions on various topics as well as others? And so on (endlessly). Many of you, I guess, share the same fears. However, I've got to apologize for myself. At the end it turned out not to be so ugly. Apparently, it was only my perception of the language problem's existence. Or my friendly classmates just let it go.

I have stepped into unknown terrain and enjoyed exploring it.



The Student Association is looking for 5 fun, friendly and committed students to help us welcome new students this September.

If you are interested in working with us during the week of September 7-10, please contact Monique Kavanagh at 415-2455.

Only successful applicants will be contacted.



**Student Association**

• OF GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE •



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# Boni's Guide to getting Straight A's

by Boni

**C**lose your eyes. Imagine having read thirty papers, all on similar subjects. Most of them have been so boring that you believe that you will spend the rest of your natural lifespan comatose.

Your eyes have become blurry from too many small sized fonts typical single-spaced. Your skull bones are creaking from concentration as you have tried to figure out just what the writers of these papers are trying to convey in flowery dramatic language. If you see one more spelling or grammatical error, you will eat your thesaurus and find the experience pleasant. You have two more papers to read. One is hand-written, even though you have expressly told your students that all papers must be typed. The excuse written in the upper right-hand corner is that this student is an inefficient typist and so has chosen to hand write. The other is neatly typed by computer. Who gets the "A" regardless of content? You guessed it...the typed one...

Here are the secrets of an "A" paper-writer.

Not only have I received "A's" on all of my recent papers, I have tutored and assisted other students to get "A's" on their own.

- 1) Use 12-point simple font.
- 2) ALWAYS type double-spaced.
- 3) Do a title page with the name of the paper, your name, your teacher's name and the course code. Eg., "How To Eat Pizza Without Looking Like a Gila Monster" by John Didit Ms. Manners

## BITE 101

- 4) Be creative with your title page. I once received 5 free marks for creativity because I tied a leather thong with two feathers attached (instead of a staple) to my paper on Louis Riel. It took two extra minutes to do. My job should pay that well...
- 5) READ THE INSTRUCTIONS!!! I can't tell you how many times I have seen someone hand in a report instead of an essay, a transcript instead of a report, an essay rather than a critique, etc. etc. If you don't know the difference, find someone and ASK. If necessary, get a tutor to help you.
- 6) Do a spell check. Do another spell check. Do a third spell check.
- 7) Editing is more important than writing. Print your paper. Put it away until tomorrow. Read it again. Papers, like people with hangovers, look a great deal worse in the morning and often require drastic cures. If necessary, have a friend read it for errors. Also, never trust your computer screen to tell you the truth about what you have written. I always print and edit at least two hard copies before I believe a paper is acceptable.
- 8) Read your paper out loud. Funny how good some phrases look on paper but how distorted they sound when you actually read them aloud.
- 9) KISS your paper. Keep It Simple and Strong. When in doubt, simplify. Short sentences carry more punch than long ones. You are doing this to clarify information, not to give your teacher an exercise in Shakespearean phraseology.

10) NEVER EVER PLAGIARIZE—always give credit to your sources. You can be pitched out of school for this. ("Plagiarizing" is when you copy someone else's work out of a book, from the Internet etc.) Not only that, but if you didn't say it, sooner or later, someone is going to find a drastic contrast in your styles and you will not be able to explain it logically.

- 11) Learn how to do footnotes and cite works.
- 12) Learn to do a proper bibliography. I never heard so much childish whining from a bunch of college students (who should be adult enough to know how to do this) and if not, mature enough to look it up) when a teacher insisted that she would not mark anyone's essay who had not done one. I was thoroughly disgusted since I come from a school system that insisted on proper bibliographies from Grade 9 onwards. Wake up, people—you're in the big leagues now!
- 13) DO NOT USE THE INTERNET AS A SOURCE. Yes, you read that right. The Internet is a wonderful playground but it is not a source for a serious paper. You cannot prove who is really giving you the information. I have heard some of the most obvious horse pookie cited as gospel truth from students who were using the Internet as a source. GET A LIBRARY CARD! Real book sources will be appreciated by your teacher and carry much more weight in any discussion than an Internet source. Also, books are more credible than magazine articles, since articles are often written by

free-lance journalists for a fast buck. I'm not saying that all books are equal, but it takes a great deal more savvy and credentials to get a book published than it does to whip off a \$100 article for some obscure Ezine.

- 14) Get creative. Come up with some variations on whatever themes you are given. Check with your teacher to make sure your idea is acceptable to him/her. I have copped some excellent marks with interesting takes on bland subjects. Walk around your idea, look at it from many different sides and see what you can do with it. Many times, 100 students for the last 12 years, have been given the same 10 topics. Do your part to alleviate teacher burnout by writing something provocative. I was working at StreetHunt when a George Brown student called and asked me, "What do you know about the mentally ill who are homeless?"—my answer was, "Why don't you write on how homelessness can make sane people appear mentally ill?" A whole new world opened up for that woman. We talked for over an hour on how lack of sleep, the stress of homelessness and improper nutrition can affect the human psyche. When she called me, she sounded bored — by the time I was finished, she was eager to take on the paper. If it bores you, it's going to bore the reader, too.

Well, that is the most important information you will need for now. Maybe later, we will discuss how to write different kinds of essays, etc. Just e-mail the dialOG and let us know. For now, enjoy your summer!

## by Professor Ah-Clem

**O**k, let's get down to the real poop now. You want to get better grades on exams. I have some suggestions, most of which don't take working yourself up into a lather. Most of these are ideas about "attitude" and "approach" rather than specific "methodology." I'll leave the "heavy duty ideas" like devising a new more effective note-taking system to the experts.

### Suggestion ONE

Try to get the highest score you can on the exam. Sound obvious? Well, I find that a lot of students have either no strategy to get the highest score possible or who pursue some other objective. The purpose of taking any exam should be to get the highest score possible. It is NOT to show the professor what you know!! You can earn the professor's respect and admiration another time. Focus on getting the highest score possible. Make every minute or every exam count toward reaching that goal.

Make every action count toward reaching that goal. Look for every way possible to raise your score while taking the exam.

For example: Do you get partial credit on problems? Have you thought about what your particular professor or teacher gives the most partial credit for? Will a "bare bones outline" of your solution method be sufficient to get 50% partial credit or will you have to cite more specific information? Each teacher is different and it's worth asking her/him about their grading policies.

Another example: Press down hard on your pencil when you write and use a soft lead. Why??? Professors ALL have failing eyesight and what they can't read, they can't give credit for. And (speaking from personal experience) they get steamed and a little reluctant to give points if they have had to arm-wrestle with your paper to find

the answers. Label things clearly!!!

### Suggestion TWO

Do not waste time. In Suggestion One, we identified that pursuing the highest score is your goal. Now everyone would do better if they just had more time. But you never will, so the best you can do is to use your time wisely. For example: If you are stuck on a problem or find yourself moving through it too slowly, give it up for the time being. Come back to it later if time permits. Time is the most precious thing you have during the exam. <-> Another example: Make sure everything you will need is available...in duplicate if necessary. More paper, extra pens and pencils, rulers, calculators. And another example: If you are allowed to use your book during the exam, don't waste your time paging through it looking for items you need. Instead, it should be "marked" using Post-It tabs to allow you to instantly locate reference materials. Here's another idea: After every exam, write out on a sheet of paper anything you did that wasted time. Did you page madly through a book looking for a chart? Did your lead break and you had to go begging for a pencil? Did you get to the exam five minutes late (and out of breath without eating breakfast) because your alarm-clock didn't wake you up? Write down ANYTHING you can remember and before the NEXT EXAM, vow to not repeat the problem. Keep this sheet of paper and add to it after each exam.

### Suggestion Three

Never ever change an answer once you have marked it. For some unknown reason, student's will lose confidence in their first solutions and change an answer to something wrong. I don't why!! But student's are always coming up after the exam and saying "I had that... I should have let it." They never come up and say, "Boy, I'm glad I didn't trust my first instincts on that.

I had it wrong and at the last moment, changed my answer to the right one." Now I can't guarantee that you won't later in the exam "come to your senses" and recognize a wrong answer. My suggestion is don't change it UNLESS you are ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED it's wrong and you are right. Suggestion FOUR

Don't cram. Start studying several days before the exam. If you put off "learning" until the night before the exam, you will only be adding to your test anxiety. Learn to learn. If you learned the material when it was being taught, and committed it to memory, you will have it at your fingertips when you take the exam. If you skipped class or got behind in your mastering the material, pouring hours into last minute studying won't accomplish much. Besides, cramming "learning" will be quickly forgotten (perhaps even before the exam comes) and certainly before you need it on the final exam. So don't put off the "learning" part of your course. Each day, master what was covered in lecture and on the night before the exam, go have a pizza. It won't be crowded because most of your friends will be force feeding their brains instead of having enjoyed the savory slices of education at a more leisurely pace.

### Suggestion FIVE

Work the whole exam. Many times I have to count off significantly because a student doesn't answer the whole question asked or even misses a part of the exam. Don't waste your time reading the whole exam through at the beginning. That's just another form of cramming and you'll forget whatever you read before you get back to actually work the problem.

But DO note the structure of the exam... How many problems are there? Do some problems have multiple parts? It's very easy on an exam to get caught up working a problem, finish a part of it and forget

there was more to work on in that problem. I guess it's natural to feel a sense of relief in finishing a part of a task, but don't let it go to your head.

It wouldn't be a bad idea to take a yellow highlighting pen and mark the questions being asked, especially if the problem is in the form of a word problem. The highlighting will focus your attention on the issues you need to address. Then when you finish answering each part of a complex question, you might want to put a big checkmark on the appropriate highlighted area.

### Suggestion SIX

Don't work the first problem first. Call me superstitious. Call me weird. Call me Ah-Clem. But I know that students are weird too, and sometimes when you read the first problem and you don't know how to work it, it spoils you. It makes you feel like you are going to fail the whole exam and then panic sets in. So if you instead always work the last problem first, or the second one, you will never have that sense of "doom". You might not know how to work the last problem, but there are lots of others!

Ahhh, but there are scoffers out there. I hear people whispering, "What if I go to work the last problem and it scares me to pieces?" Well, then go to the first problem and read it and see if you are still scared. Remember, there's really no magic here. If you aren't properly prepared to do well on the exam, you probably won't do very well no matter which problem you start on. But if you suspect your teacher is the type to put a difficult question first, don't give her or him the satisfaction. Work the first problem LAST and have the last laugh.

Professor Ah-Clem has a useful web site at <http://members.tripod.com/~DoctorAhClem>. Check it out and get ready for some amazing exam-taking!

# Huskie Party Survival Guide

**Party** (pär 'te) *n. & v. / n. (pl. -ies)* 1. *social gathering*, usually of invited guests. 2 *a body of persons engaged in an activity*. 3 a group of *people untied in a cause*. 4 collq. A person /v tv. (-ies, -ied) *entertain or attend a party*.

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# Welcome to the Student Association!

by Sharen Barker

I recently had the pleasure of speaking with the president of your George Brown College Student Association, Jerome Adamo. Last year, Jerome did a great job in his role as Director of External Affairs. He's very nice and very knowledgeable about student affairs and issues. I think he's also very interested in helping students get to know George Brown College, and the many things it has to offer. Jerome explains:

"The Student Association is your first stop to understanding a lot of things. Our staff is completely dedicated and committed to helping students, so stop them in the hallway or come to our office. We're all waiting to help you out."

## Rock the Block!

On September 10, you can celebrate with an Orientation street party, Rock the Block, at St. James. The party includes live entertainment, wild games, free food and lots more! Buses will bring students from Casa Loma and Nightingale starting at 10 a.m. and run throughout the day. So don't forget to mark it on your calendar! Jerome tells more.

"Rock the Block will be an interesting event because it'll be our second year. I think it gives the students, especially first year students, a chance to know what they're coming into. Second year or returning students will remember it from last year. It's a big concert out on George Street. There also will be vending tables from various places. This year, we've taken a lot of initiatives to take in a lot of community organizations. The Coalition Against Child Poverty, for instance, will have a table. I think taking proactive steps to raising awareness to students, especially if they're from out of the city, about issues will have an impact on the community that we live in here at George Brown College. We may not necessarily live in this community habitually but at the same time, because we go to school here, there are certain issues that students should be aware of. As well, there will be singers and interactive games. We'll also have our annual barbecue."

## Suggestions for Success

I asked Jerome what advice he had for new students. He suggested,

"The Student Association welcomes you to the student lounge but don't live in the student lounge. The student lounge is there for lounging and relaxing between classes when you have spares but not when you have class or exams and assignments that are due. The student lounge isn't somewhere you should be when that happens because it's going to affect your success as a student."

## Get Involved!

Jerome also recommended that it's good to get involved.

"Have fun. If you don't have fun and don't get involved, time passes away, and it's really a great opportunity to get involved in the college. You'll see it impact your life a lot. I think getting involved in the college has some really great ramifications on your success as a student because you've got more friends, more connections, and more resources. The more people you talk to, the more you learn about things. Don't be afraid to talk to your teachers. Some of my best friends

Training, the Counsel of Regents, which is the government body of the colleges, and the Association of the Community Colleges. The legislation that it passes down has impact on the people in the community, our students here at George Brown. It's the Student Association that is in existence to raise awareness of those issues because they're not just provincial issues, but legislation that is set in place on a provincial level will decide or affect the decisions that are being made on a local level which

help the students. With more money cut from the system, that means that the higher tuitions go up and the debt goes pretty much on the students, with less facilities and less services. So we're complaining about that with the college, saying, 'We need you to start up some things, and let's lobby the government together.' That's one thing the Student Association this year has mandated to do, to improve our college relationship and say we're all in this together."

## What services does the Student Association offer?

Jerome describes the many services that the Student Association offers.

"I think to go to school, to go to class, you did pay money to come here for a reason. I wish everybody the best in all their endeavours as students. Remember to have fun. The Student Association has many services you can take advantage of. We have women's centres and food banks. We have our campus lounges. We have the Zone, which is our campus pub. Take advantage, if you're into writing articles, of the Dialog, the student newspaper. That's a great source for students to raise awareness of student issues. And there are just so many other things. For example, RAK days, random acts of kindness days. Watch out for them, because one day, you may just be walking down the hall and somebody may just give you something for free. That's what makes the college life and student life really good. You want to come here, you enjoy the time you're here and you're very successful while you're here as well."

## Student Representation

"Running for the Student Association is great. Getting involved in the campus committees is a great start. The Student Association has taken steps last year to improve our representation of students.

We've got campus committees for all four campuses, Nightingale, Casa Loma, Hospitality Centre, and St. James. And we've got chairs for those committees, members of the Student Association. We've expanded from a board of 12 to 24 to incorporate different departments of the college, the Faculty of Business, the Faculty of Community Service, Nightingale, the Faculty of Community Service, St. James, and Graphic Arts. We have student representative councils as well, which are autonomous organizations of the Student Association, but at the same time, we've given them a voice on the board as well."

## Have a great year!

"I think things are going great. I'm looking forward to this year, to the turn of the century. We've all taken steps at the Student Association to make your student life better here at George Brown and we wish you all the luck!"

Please drop off the Student Association office!



Student Association (from left)

Back row: Jim Andreu, Assistant Operations Manager; James Williams, Vice President Hospitality; Drew Sauveur, Vice President, Casa Loma Campus; Kenney Fitzpatrick, Retail Manager

Middle Row: Alan Stokell, Manager of Student Publications; Monique Kavanagh, Student Services Manager; Isabel Espinoza, Office Manager, Casa Loma and Nightingale; Helena Miekus, Pub and Events Manager; Lori Foran, Business Manager

Front row: Elizabeth Antunes, Vice President, St. James Campus, Jerome Adamo, President; Margaret Cameron, Vice President Education

at the college are teachers. My mentor happens to be a teacher I had a couple of years ago in my political science course, and the Faculty Board of Governors' representative. Combined with the faculty from the Community Worker Program, those are the people I take guidance from. Have fun, that's my best advice."

## Why is there a Student Association?

I asked Jerome what the purpose of the Student Association was. He described how the Student Association fit into the larger scheme of things.

"The Student Association is the official representation of our students at George Brown. There are a lot of issues, whether they come from the federal level, the provincial level, or the municipal level. But primarily in the provincial sector, they've got the Ministry of Education and

is the college level, so that is why we're here."

## Vital Issues

"For example, our operating budget has been slashed by the government. This has an impact on the colleges, and colleges are now trying different approaches to make their operating budget. That will affect our students. Last year just to coincide with that, the key performance indicators, which are a mandated standard from the Ministry of Education and Training, are now being introduced into colleges so that they will perform on a certain level. If the colleges don't by 2002, their funding will start getting cut. That's one thing. But you're cutting from the colleges. You're telling them to provide better services, but if you don't, we're going to cut more money from you, and that is not going to

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# the OUTbeat



## An Introduction to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Association of George Brown College



by Darnell Smith and Margaret Cameron

The LGBTQA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Association of George Brown College) has been meeting since September, 1998. We started out with students from the St. James Campus and by January 1999 we had members from all campuses. We meet every Thursday on the St. James Campus in room 595F. Watch for our signs!!!

The group formed for various reasons. Some of these included:

- \* A need for a safe space for students to speak openly about their feelings and questions regarding their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- \* A need for an increased sense of community for LGBT students at GBC.
- \* To increase awareness of issues affecting our community.
- \* To provide students with access to resources available in Toronto's LGBT community.

We currently receive funding from the Student Association of George Brown College as a recognized club.

This year, the LGBTQA marched in the Dyke march and the Pride Parade to celebrate Pride week (One Pride Fits All). Members of the Student Association Executive marched in solidarity with us in the Parade.

Some other events this year included:

- \* movie nights
- \* going to clubs
- \* Some plans for the upcoming year include:
  - \* participating in the AIDS Walk, Take Back the Night, and International Women's Day

- \* GBC's Pride Week
- \* movie nights
- \* special speakers and lectures
- \* socials and attending Homo Hops

You can pick up a copy of GBC's brochure on Homophobia and Heterosexism outside of the Student Association office. For further information, please call (416) 2900 ext. 89917, or e-mail the group at LGB-TAGBC@hotmail.com. Someone will usually return your call/e-mail within 24 hours. Please say in your message if it is okay to leave a message at your home.

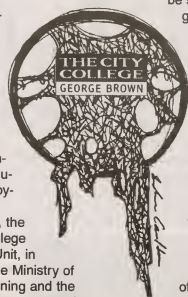
## NEW COURSE FOR NATIVE STUDENTS AT GEORGE BROWN

by Boni

George Brown College has decided to tackle one of the great inequities of the Canadian educational system. 50% of First Nations people in Canada are unemployed—the highest rate of any ethnic group in Canada. This statistic is comprised of Status, Non-Status and Metis, including those who are urbanized. The secondary school education rate of Native people in this country hovers at less than .02% — worse than that of many third world countries. The amount of First Nations People with a high school diploma

is less than 35%. Given these statistics, one can only conclude that there is something inherent in the standard educational system that blocks Aboriginal people from obtaining measurable educational and employment goals.

With that in mind, the George Brown College Native Programs Unit, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and Training and the Academic Bridging program, will



be sponsoring a two-year general arts and science diploma program. It will start at St. James Campus in September, 1999.

There will be 40% Native perspective programming such as a Native studies program in "Heritage, Culture & Identity", "Native Arts & The Media" as well as "Medicine Wheel Teachings" which matches the "Career Studies I" program. The other 60% will consist of skills transferable to the

workplace with a concentration in computer technology.

This program is open to anyone of Native descent who has Grade 10 math and English or mature student status after the completion of a College Admission Test, a writing sample/questionnaire and a personal interview.

This much-needed program was the brain child of Lori Budge and Linda Croal. Presently, Lori and Linda are setting up tutoring programs to assist in the success of the new students.

If you are interested in this program or know someone who is, contact Lori Budge, the Native Student Counsellor at (416) 415 2526 or 1-800-265-2002 Ext. 2526.

## Great New Electronic Research Tool

by Elsa Hokan and Marcia Pulleyblank

**I**CON, which stands for Information Centre Online Network, is the gateway to using the many electronic resources now available in the George Brown libraries. ICON is the key feature of our new library/LRC webpage which is being developed by both Educational Resources staff and students working in the Open Access Computer Labs. The name, ICON, was created by Greg Vasilkoti, a St. James student, who was the winner of a college-wide competition.

Some of the features of ICON include the library/LRC catalogue, electronic databases, information about the Educational Resources department and a suggestion box for your ideas and comments.

Web access to the library/LRC catalogue is a new option that uses the library computer system. It allows you to find out what books and videos are available for your subject needs. The other exciting option for students is access to over 40 electronic databases, which allows you to locate articles and up-to-date information from a wide range of documents.

Here are just a few examples of what you can do:

- Search for Canadian magazine and journal articles by topic (and in many cases, you can find the article you're looking for online). You can find them in the CD-ROM databases of CBCA (Canadian Business & Current Affairs) which has over 800 titles, and CPIQ (Canadian Periodical Index Query), which has over 30,000 full text documents.
- Find the full-text of today's news and past news stories from a wide variety of Canadian newspapers through SNI Newscan online, and from the Canadian Newdisc and Globe and Mail CD-ROM databases.
- Get an overview of your topic by using the online version of the Encyclopaedia Britannica and the McGraw-Hill Ency-

clopedia of Science & Technology with information updated regularly, and links to recommended Internet sites.

- Evaluate and develop your job search skills with the CD-ROM version of the famous book "What Color is Your Parachute?"
- Look up current Canadian laws and regulations, such as the Building Code, Electrical Code and Ontario Statutes and Regulations.
- Find scholarly, journal and magazine articles online in all subject areas. You can access full-text database systems such as LEXIS-NEXIS (over 1 billion searchable documents) and EbscoHost: Masterfile (over 1000 full-text periodicals).

- Check out our full-text subject databases, such as Health Reference Center for medical information (over 160 full-text periodicals plus 6 full-text reference books), and ABI-Inform Global for business.

- Also note the bibliographic databases, such as CINAHL for nursing topics or SPORT Discus for athletics and sports, which index hundreds of resources in these areas.

To access these tools, visit the library/LRC. The Information Desk staff can help you learn how to use the resources of ICON, an essential step in developing your research skills. Using ICON will help you to excel in your research assignments and will develop your skills in using new technology.

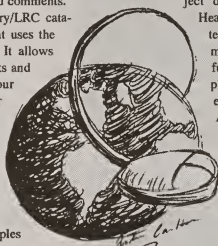
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Library/LRC catalogue: <http://biblioweb.cencol.on.ca/library/LRC/GB.html>

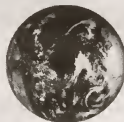


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## COMPUTER ASSISTANTS NEEDED

The Educational Resources Department needs students to work in the open access Computer Learning Centres at the St. James, Casa Loma and Nightingale campuses.

### DUTIES

- Assist students to log in and access the software applications
- Assist students to use the on-line help utilities
- Monitor printers and print queues
- Book and distribute AV equipment

### QUALIFICATIONS

- Expertise using Windows 95 and Mac operating systems
- Demonstrated skill in one or more of the following:  
MS Office (word, excel, access, powerpoint)
- Desktop publishing/graphic design software (QuarkXpress, Photoshop, Illustrator, Corel Draw, Pagemaker)
- Accounting software
- Programming and CAD software

### /// NOTE ///

Must be customer-oriented - Good verbal & written communication skills  
Good time - management / Must be pleasant, energetic & committed  
to quality service.

If you would like a challenging & rewarding experience and the opportunity to grow & develop your people skills & computer knowledge send your resume to:

St. James OACLC  
Room 131  
Attention: Elsa Hohan  
(416) 415-2004

Casa Loma OACLC  
Room C350  
Attention: Bill Insley  
(416) 415-4459

Nightingale OACLC  
Library  
Attention: Chris Caron  
(416) 415-2356

PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO 1<sup>st</sup> YEAR STUDENTS, & STUDENTS RECEIVING OSAP.



Educational Resources

# Be a Part of Our Team

## Employment, Placement and Volunteer Opportunities Available 1999 - 2000 Academic Year

The Student Association of George Brown College would like to inform all new and returning students of the exciting employment, placement and volunteer opportunities available while studying at GBC. Currently the Student Association is accepting resumes for a variety of positions throughout the Student association.

**Retail** - Various Sales Associate positions for both the Casa Loma and St. James Campus outlets.

**SA Offices** - Office Assistant positions available for all 4 campuses: Casa Loma, Hospitality, Nightingale and St. James.

**Maintenance** - Maintenance Assistant positions are currently available for Casa Loma and St. James.

**Pub/Event** -- There are numerous positions available with The Zone Pub and working with Events on Campus. Currently we are seeking 1 Assistant Manager, bartenders, coat check staff, DJs and security.

### Positions available include:

#### Placements - opportunities are available for:

- ⇒ issue oriented students who are interested in a challenging placement with the Student Association Life Works: Foodbank and the Student Association Women's Centers.
- ⇒ Students interested in a unique and diverse placement in Graphic Arts.
- ⇒ Students seeking placements in Marketing.

**Volunteers** - The Student Association is also looking to recruit many volunteers to work with us on various events throughout the year. Special interest is currently in seeking out volunteers to be a part of this years Orientation and block party, Rock the Block.

Interested candidates should:

- ⇒ have strong interpersonal skills
- ⇒ enjoy working in a fast paced environment
- ⇒ enjoy working in a team based atmosphere
- ⇒ be friendly and willing to accept new challenges
- ⇒ must be enrolled as a full or part-time student at George Brown College

All resumes, questions or concerns should be forwarded by phone, fax, mail or e-mail to:

The Student Association of George Brown College

200 King St. East

Toronto, Ontario

M5A 3W8

(416) 415 - 2455 (phone)

(416) 415 - 2491 (Fax)

E-mail: [gbcresumes@hotmail.com](mailto:gbcresumes@hotmail.com)

- ⇒ Please state on resumes which campus and position(s) you would like to apply to. In instances of multiple positions please indicate your first preference.

Cover letter and references required with resumes. Preliminary deadline is August 20, 1999.



**Student Association**  
- OF GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE -